



Bulletin

www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/focus/focus-bulletins.htm

April 6, 2004

VOL. 2004 NO. 6 ♦ USDA Food Ordering & Customer Service (FOCUS) Team Update

Release of Meat, Poultry, and Fruits & Vegetable Surveys

In accordance with the ordering schedule sent out recently all Meat and Poultry (with the exception of canned meats, canned tuna, and the SOC Chicken items) as well as the second set of Fruit and Veg have been released in ECOS this afternoon and will be available for ordering on 6 April 04. More information will be provided soon regarding the status of the SOC program for Chicken Patties (A561) and Nuggets (A519).

Orders need to be transmitted by close of business 17 May 04, 2004, except the F & V needed to be transmitted by May 7th. As with each year, we ask that you make every effort possible to spread orders throughout the available delivery periods.

The Livestock & Poultry delivery orders are analyzed by FNS and AMS to ensure that there are sufficient orders to meet delivery periods, capped commodities, and industry forecasts. Following this process, there may be an opportunity to add additional orders; if commodities prices are lower than anticipated, industry indicates that there is more product available, or less orders were placed by states than anticipated. Remember that you can use the report option in ECOS at anytime to get a Round Survey Report for "G" year if needed. An announcement will be made if a survey is released back into ECOS and the intended purpose of the survey re-opening (i.e. to enter new orders) will be explained.

For planning purposes, please keep in mind that when some of the Livestock & Poultry surveys open back up in the summer, some delivery periods will no longer be available. We will indicate which periods are still available at that time. Remember that you can use the report option in ECOS at anytime to get a Round Survey Report for "G" year if needed.

If you need further information, please feel free to contact any of our program specialists for assistance.